

E-508A

I am responding to your letter on November 17 concerning case of Raoul Wallenberg.

As you may know, the United States Government has been concerned over the fate of Raoul Wallenberg since the case first came to light at the end of World War II. We have taken every appropriate opportunity to ask Soviet authorities for a clarification on the Wallenberg case. The Soviet authorities have persisted in maintaining that Wallenberg died in 1947 but have provided no further details. When we received reports which indicated the possibility that Wallenberg might still be alive, we raised the matter with the Soviets on numerous occasions throughout 1979. They finally answered, formally and in writing, in February of 1980, stating that Wallenberg had died in July of 1947. They also informed the Swedish Government of this finding and indicated that they would have no further information on Wallenberg in the future.

The Wallenberg case remains a matter of concern for the United States Government, and we have continued our efforts to

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gain information regarding his fate. In December of 1980, at the Madrid CSCE Review Conference, the United States delegation voiced its support for the position of the Government of Sweden when the Swedish delegation urged renewed efforts to resolve the Wallenberg case. In addition, representatives from the American Embassy in Stockholm attended sessions of the hearing on the Wallenberg case held in Stockholm in January of 1981. In April of 1981, Ambassador Max Kampelman, speaking in Madrid at a CSCE plenary session, stated that the Wallenberg case was one that "will not go away." Ambassador Kampelman noted that the refusal of the Soviets "to appreciate the human factor which is symbolized by the Wallenberg case is stimulating even further interest." He stated that "the tragic mystery of Raoul Wallenberg is unnecessarily becoming a divisive international issue."

Most recently, in October of 1981, the President signed into law a bill, passed overwhelmingly by both houses of Congress, making Raoul Wallenberg an honorary U.S. citizen. Although making Raoul Wallenberg an honorary American does not confer any new legal right on the United States in terms of international law, honoring Wallenberg in this fashion does make clear to the Soviets the extreme seriousness with which the American Government and people view Soviet conduct in the Wallenberg case. Wallenberg's actions during World War II were

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those of a humanitarian of extraordinary courage. By making him an honorary American citizen, we have made the Soviets aware of our continued dedication to the effort to resolve the mystery of Wallenberg's fate.

The United States Government will continue to express concern over the Wallenberg case at every appropriate opportunity. We intend to cooperate fully with the Government of Sweden and all other interested parties in a persistent effort to obtain information that will clarify the fate of this brave man.

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